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A wee jig

A family laughs while participating in a traditional Scottish country dance during Robbie Burns Night held at at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, Jan. 20. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Use of Dysart reserve funds cuts tax levy increase

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Finance staff expect Dysart's treasury to have finished last year with a surplus.

An initial draft of the 2024 municipal operating and capital budget on Dec. 8 included an almost 13 per cent increase to the tax levy for about a $40 increase for every $100,000 assessed to a property.

But opportunities were identified to avail of some reserve funds that cut that increase almost by half, said Barbara Swannell, the township's treasurer.

With those opportunities, Swannell delivered a second draft of the budget to council on Jan. 12 that limited the tax levy increase to 6.48 per cent. If accepted, that will represent a tax bill increase of just under $20.50 for every $100,000 a property is assessed.

Council agreed to defer the final say on the budget until the Jan. 24 meeting.

Swannell said she anticipates a working

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Health board hears it's time to accept COVID as part of life

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Welcome to the new normal in communities under the umbrella of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and the unit's CEO, said during the health board's monthly meeting Jan. 18 that it has become apparent that COVID-19 and associated ailments have become the new normal.

While we're not seeing waves of COVID-19 as had been experienced, Bocking said health officials are still grappling with illnesses associated with COVID-19.

"The new normal is that COVID-19 is part of the mix of respiratory viruses that are in our communities and (that) spread illness," she said.

"Unfortunately for some people in the community, especially those of advanced age, it hits them harder in particular, and leading to hospital admissions and, unfortunately, some deaths."

In the HKPR district, there has been 44 outbreaks of COVID-19 with 78 hospital admissions and 17 deaths so far in this 2023-24 respiratory illness season.

Influenza activity has been comprised of 111 lab-confirmed cases with seven hospital admissions.

"I would say this respiratory season has followed a more familiar path to pre-pandemic respiratory (illness) seasons," she said. "So not quite the same as last year where it was really the first respiratory season with multiple viruses in the mix."

Bocking said she brings updated tallies of hospital admissions and deaths to each board meeting as a means of keeping the virus' impact at the fore.

"I think it's important that we still acknowledge this," she said. "I think there's a desire from all of us to pretend that it's behind us."

People should switch gears from working toward a large-scale extraordinary pandemic response to COVID-19 being among respiratory illnesses. Rather, it has come time to figure out a way for us to take the virus in consideration in our daily activities into the future, she said.

Influenza numbers aren't as high as last year's significant infection rate, but Bocking said there has been higher than feared patient numbers this season compared to before the pandemic.

Even though health officials brace for respiratory illnesses every season and plan to deal with a certain infection rate, that's expectation doesn't mean the acute care system is not struggling.

"We see media reports on Emergence Department visit backlogs, waiting times," Bocking said. "We see concerns about overloading of in-patient beds and there no being sufficient in-patient beds."

Even a "regular level" or slightly increased level of respiratory illness is still a burden on the acute care system "as it faces multiple things such as burn-out of employees, insufficient in-patient beds and resources," she said.

"It's a complicated picture, but certainly there are things that we can do day-to-day."

Those things include ensuring vaccines are up-to-date and that people are taking precautions to stunt a virus' spread.

"That will help to prevent increased burden on the Emergency Department or hospitals," she said.

Sled season

Thanks to plenty of snowfall over the past two weeks, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association was able to open the Haliburton County Rail Trail to sledders. HCSA has been hard at work, day and night packing down snow on their other trails. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

Growth stymies tax increase

from page 1

fund balance of about $1.5 million.

"We anticipate a little bit of a surplus," she said. "What that value would be at this point, we're still working towards that."

Dysart saw new growth of about 1.7 per cent in 2023.

"Which is pretty high, by the way," said Mayor Murray Fearrey.

Swannell said the municipality had an additional $64-million of additional assessment value.

In order to achieve the second draft's lower tax levy increase, Swannell said staff recommends using money in reserve funds to offset the need. That would mean using $450,000 from the working reserve funds, she said.

"Based on the reserve fund policy, our working funds exceed the current target limits," she said. "So this is where we're pulling from that surplus."

Another $250,000 would need to be taken from the capital roads reserve fund. That would require a commitment from council to replace that money next year, in addition to the usual annual reserve fund contribution.

"I want to make clear here that we're not robbing a reserve that isn't over what it's anticipated that we should have," Fearrey said. "We have extra money in the working funds?"

Correct, Swannell said.

"So if you're going to give somebody a break, that's not a penalty," Fearrey said. "But we do have to put the $250,000 back, right?"

Right, said Swannell.

"Otherwise we won't have money to buy equipment," Fearrey said. "So that's a thought. That's one way of doing it."

The mayor said taxpayers have braced for an increase as the prices for everything from Hydro to labour, materials, and gas has risen.

"We definitely have to have more money to operate," he said. "I think people will understand that."

Given the rate of growth in the past year in Dysart, Fearrey said the required levy increase would likely be seven or eight per cent without the new money that's been injected into municipal coffers.

"We all benefit from that extra growth," he said. "That's pretty amazing growth. I wouldn't count on that another year. I think it's going to go a little down."

Councillor Carm Sawyer suggested council consider cutting anticipated road expenditures in half, which would decrease by $1.1 million.

"But the typical problem you face is you pay now or pay double later," Sawyer said.

"We're going to have to do some borrowing in this council term," Fearrey said. "There's no doubt about it."

Major expenditures at the township's landfills are on the horizon, he said.

The municipality can "probably" borrow at 4.5 per cent interest from a bank "I'm hoping," Fearrey said.

He suggested the township borrow for six months or a year so there will be enough time to see what's going to happen with interest rates.

"If the Bank of Canada drops the rate by half a point, even, it's a big deal when you're borrowing for 40 years on three or four million bucks," he said.

The lion's share of tax dollars at 44 per cent of the purse in 2024 will be spent on transportation services. Environment services and protective services chew up 17 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

"That represents 77 per cent of the municipal budget," Swannell said.

"Unfortunately, that's what's got to be done," Fearrey said.

Afterwards, Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie said: "All of us have got to realize there's a lot of needs out there in our community."

McKechnie said people have said to raise the tax levy by 10 or 15 per cent. But the majority of people can't afford that kind of an increase in these uncertain economic days.

"And that's who we're supposed to try to take care of," he said. "The majority of the people. I think this budget is very fair to a lot of people."

He said he accepts the proposed 6.48 per cent tax increase.

"Is everybody okay with that to keep the roads the same?" Fearrey said. "We either do it now or do it later."

"I don't think we can take away from the roads because we'll never catch up," Sawyer said.

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Fifty years a Lion

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Staff Reporter

David Mills, left, is celebrating 50 years of being a Lion. /Photo submitted

"I became a Lion on January 4, 1974," said David Mills, as he sat down with a coffee in the winter sun.

The days seem like they're getting colder, but the space inside the cafe is warm and welcoming, as Mills unravelled his blue and yellow Lions scarf to drape from the chair.

50 years of commitment to anything is a feat; toss in a retirement, a major move, a global pandemic, and the natural effects of aging, and the commitment seems that much more admirable.

"I was completely clueless about the Lions Club at first," recalled Mills, noting that he first got involved upon moving to Uxbridge, and was looking for ways to get to know people in the community. "I was just looking for stuff to do," he chuckled.

At the time, Mills was still working as a school principal with the Durham Board, and was instantly drawn to the many projects the Lions Club dabbled with.

From diabetes to children's literacy to hunger to vision, the Lions Club is actively involved in a wealth of causes that continue to feed the hearts, minds, stomachs, and souls of the community. "We don't just give to individuals," said Mills, "we look for causes where we can make the most impact." He noted that the exception to this rule is if there is a fire locally; at which point the Lions show up the very next day with a cheque for $500 to donate to the family. No questions asked.

Mills retired from his role as principal in 1994, at which point he was settling in with his wife, Betty, at their family cottage on Kennisis Lake. He was still affiliated with the Uxbridge Lions at the time, who met at 8 a.m. Saturday mornings. "I would get in the car at 5 a.m. and drive to Uxbridge each week," Mills recalled.

He and Betty relocated to the Haliburton Highlands permanently in 1999, at which point he joined the Haliburton Lions Club. "We have people from all stripes," he said. "We're a very diverse group here, because we believe that anyone can serve their community." Mills noted that the Haliburton club is comprised of 31 members, includes more women than men, and has quite a few couples and partners who serve together. Mills' own wife, Betty, joined the club 17 years ago, and hasn't looked back since.

Mills noted that the Lions Clubs have five pillars of service, and each project they take on has some relation to one of the pillars. They include diabetes relief, vision care, hunger management, environmental sustainability, and improving outcomes for children with cancer.

While the majority of their initiatives fall within the umbrella of these pillars, Mills said they do not shy away from other opportunities that could help the community in some capacity. The includes running their annual Storytime in the Park, where they offer free games, books, and activities to local children, and the Santa Claus parade in Haliburton. The Lions built that float for Santa Claus, and continue to use it each year, along with coordinating and facilitating the parade itself. "Most people don't know this, but those reindeer are painted and carved to scale," chuckled Mills. "We even made sure we used the real colours as well."

Mills knows that getting involved can be a big commitment. That's why the Lions Club offers flexibility around meeting attendance. The group meets once a month for a meeting, and then connects a second time for a social gathering. If people can't make the meetings, Mills said that everyone is understanding. "If you don't want to join full time, we're also always looking for volunteers," he said, referencing the many community events that the club offers that require more than the club itself.

He also noted that since the pandemic, the meetings are always hybrid models, with options to tune in virtually if the in-person timing doesn't work.

While the club has a healthy number currently, Mills said they are always looking for more members. 'These are the best kind of people to be around," he said. "Because they are people who just want to help and make a difference in their communities."

Mills shared that there is always a moment that you join Lions, and a moment you become a Lion. "You have to have that 'aha' moment," he said, "it's that moment you realize that you've made a difference in someone's life. That's when you become a Lion."

With 50 years of giving back to his community, Mills said he has no intentions of slowing down. "I want to make it to 60 years," he laughed. "And if I'm still moving, still going, why would I stop helping wherever I can?"

To get involved with the Haliburton Lions Club, or a Lions Club in your region, visit www.lionsclub.org.

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Stakeholders, county plan for shifts in winter tourism

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Winters in Haliburton County may never be the same.

It's a harsh reality, but those working in the tourism industry know it to be true.

For businesses dependent on snow and ice in the winter, creativity is what will push them into the future.

"This year, so many businesses and organizations have had to pivot. They thought outside the box for the past month about how they can still offer experiences in the county without snow," said Angelica Ingram, manager of tourism for Haliburton County. "And at the tourism department, we're making similar plans for the coming years, should we continue to see less snow and late ice freezing."

The county's first big snowstorm happened only two weekends ago.

Some lakes still had spots of open water.

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association has been able to build up trail bases with their groomers over the past few days.

"Certainly places that are dependent on ice fishing are most affected," said Thom Lambert, social media and content creator for the tourism and economic development department. "Of course skiing is affected too."

But that didn't stop the Jack Rabbit program from starting on-schedule on Jan. 6.

It also didn't hinder family events at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride over the public school holiday break.

"Although they couldn't open all runs, Sir Sam's ran four different kids camps over the break, and they were all full. I think they've done a phenomenal job of pivoting," Lambert explained. "They've done an amazing job of making snow the last couple of years, and they understand what families are looking for over breaks."

In the past, a later holiday break like that in 2023; with Christmas at the very beginning, would have meant more time for snow activities.

This year, we saw mostly saw green grass below our feet.

Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve opened all of their trails on Friday, Jan 12 following a huge winter storm. /Photo submitted

"It's been a weird December because of the late start to winter, but also with the way the school year fell, it was a busy place even without snow. We had a lot of visitors here," Ingram said. "A lot of the downtown businesses saw really good numbers over the holidays, because there was no snow, but people were still here shopping, eating out, and figuring out other things to do."

Thanks to visitors, many local businesses were booming.

"I was at Thrift Warehouse after Christmas, and the manager was saying they've had a huge boom in puzzle sales. They had days in December that were as busy as July," Ingram said.

She also highlighted the abundance of events this winter.

"When I first moved to the area 15 years ago, live music was mostly spring to fall. But now we have back to back concerts and events in January," she said.

Over at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, being a bit farther north benefitted them greatly.

They were able to open 200 kilometres of snowmobile trails this past weekend that don't cross water.

"The trails at the Forest are quite often among the earliest open in eastern North America which makes them very lucky," Lambert said.

It was still a long wait for them, too, said Tegan Legge, general manager of tourism and recreation at Haliburton Forest.

The had to "pivot" their focus for the past couple of months.

"It was certainly a slow start. In the meantime, guests had a great time hiking, ATVing, and visiting the Wolf Centre," Legge said. "The Wolf Centre was very busy over the holidays. We weren't pulling in as many guests as we would with snowmobiling, but the ATVers had a blast out on trails and hikers came out in droves, including an outdoor club over the New Year from the city."

Legge said all of their trails have been open since Friday, Jan. 12.

"We were sold out Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for snowmobile day passes," she said.

Unfortunately, there's no way around the lack of snow and ice for many local organizations.

"Here, we're dependent on lakes getting thick enough to stake," Lambert said. "There is no substitute to there being 200 sleds parked downtown. That might we something we have to look at in the future."

"It of course affects local restaurants and fuel providers, too," added Ingram.

But the tourism department is confident the county can and will adapt.

"The reality is, everything about climate change says winters are getting shorter, but I'm confident. We have amazingly creative operators in the county," Lambert said.

One of the most important aspects is to support winter weather-dependent businesses in any and every way; all of us, as a community.

Small acts go a long way when we do them collectively.

Some ways to offer support:

- Share posts, activities, and events on social media
- Shop locally
- Have a "staycation" at local accommodations
- Attend local events
- Eat out
- Buy ski and snowmobile passes

Visit myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening for a calendar of events for Haliburton County to stay updated on this winter's events.

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HE looks to resume septic system inspections

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East is hoping to play catch-up this summer after little activity in 2023 with its septic inspection program.

Colin McKnight, the township's chief building official, explained to council when it met Jan. 16 that the Septic Maintenance Program began in 2017 with a focus on lakefront properties.

Everything was pretty much hunky-dory until 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic ground life to a near stand-still. You know, as some life happenings demand certain concessions. Inspections resumed in 2021 and 2022.

But then staff shortages brought another suspension to the program last year.

"We're hoping by the end of 2024 we can provide council with an accurate report of what's outstanding and kind of go from there with council's direction," McKnight said. "Just give us this year to kind of catch up and get you something back with where we're at."

The Building Department has a full-time septic inspector. His name's Adam Rull and he has been tending to existing program records.

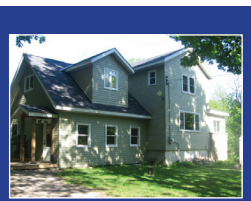
"Unfortunately, the total number of properties inspected do not appear to be consistent or accurate," McKnight wrote in a report to council.

"All previously compiled data needs to be further reviewed and verified."

To accomplish such a review, McKnight wants to hire a summer student to help out with the program.

The student will pull each file to input existing data into a newly created Excel document, eliminating the multiple documents currently on file. This will allow for more accurate tracking and records management.

"I'm hopeful at the end of 2024 we can provide council with an accurate update on what is outstanding and move forward with the completion of lakefront properties," McKnight said. "At that point, I would recommend we look at riverfront properties then any additional properties as per council direction."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Finding her 'North Star'; the story of Maryam Monsef

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Sitting down to write about the most recent Speaker's Series on Maryam Monsef was no easy feat.

The Haliburton County Community Co-operative offers the series on a monthly basis; featuring people from all over the country to share their stories with a captive crowd. I've heard presentations on canoe trips, guitar concerts, scotch tastings. The Co-op has a knack for bringing in folks that appeal to everyone.

But in all the presentations I've watched so far, no one has been like Maryam Monsef.

The former politician and current human rights advocate stood in front of the crowd without a notebook or a slide show as a parachute.

Instead, she pulled stories from her own journey. Her life before, during, and after politics. She dove into the realities of immigration, of women in the workforce, of running for mayor before turning 30, of being on an international political stage.

She had the audience enraptured in her journey. Captivated by each next step.

By the time the presentation was over, I had a notebook of scribbles, of stories, of inspiration.

But no clear direction on the story.

How do you write a story on someone who has waded so many waters?

I looked back at how she started her presentation; by transporting the crowd to Afghanistan in the 1960s. "The year is 1964," she started. "There are four boys in a family, and suddenly, a little girl is born. Her father takes one look at her, and says, 'you're going to be the first woman doctor in the family.'"

She goes on to share that the little girl grew up thriving academically, and received a full scholarship to attend school anywhere in the world.

But as the girl is weighing her education options, war breaks out across the country, and the girl's brother is taken from his room, never to be seen again. "When we lose things," Monsef said, "we mourn. People, dreams, it doesn't matter, we mourn."

The girl, now a woman, changed her life direction. She went on to meet a suitor, who she fell madly in love with, and they started a family. Yet within a few years, the man is killed at the Afghanistan/Iran border, and the woman was left with young children, as a widow at the age of 24. With that, her dreams continued to change.

It was then that the woman was faced with a choice; continue life as they knew it in Afghanistan, with the reality that her daughters would likely be sold off for marriage, or move and start over again. This time, in Canada.

"And that decision my mother made was the biggest gift anyone could have ever given us," said Monsef.

Having some loose connections in Peterborough, her family settled into life in a new country, knowing only the most basic of English, and navigating the highs and lows together. "We came to Canada with broken hearts for what we left behind," she said, "but big hopes and dreams for the opportunities that lay ahead."

Monsef shared that when her family arrived in Canada, they greatly benefited from the kindness of the people around them, regularly utilizing the services of the Salvation Army and the YWCA, as well as the support of friends and new neighbours.

It was this continued kindness that inspired her to find ways to give back to her community.

"When I decided to put my name forward for political candidacy, that was the fire in my belly. That was my 'why'," she said. "The biggest advice I have for people is to find your 'why'. Find your North Star. Then, you'll always be able to say 'yes' with conviction."

She decided to run for mayor just before turning 30, at which point she was met with queries about her age, her gender, her race, her background. As a result of the mounting doubt, she questioned her decisions many times, before finally deciding to follow through with it in 2014.

While Monsef came in a close second during that election, she fell on the radar at a national scale, and was elected as the Liberal Party candidate in 2015. Shortly after her arrival on the political stage, she was offered a seat at the federal cabinet table, and became a part of the first ever gender-balanced cabinet in Canadian history.

"Once I found my footing, we got some really great things done," Monsef said. "I learned how to get things done in an institution that was designed to keep people like me out."

During her time in this position, she was recognized alongside Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Malala Yousafzai, and Michelle Obama as one of the top 20 global influencers in gender equality. She had also established Canada's first full department for Women and Gender Equality, and put the country on the map for gender equity.

Monsef left politics in 2021, which coincided with the time the Taliban took over leadership of Afghanistan. "A part of me broke then," she said. "We had lost Afghanistan, and it was back in the hands of the bad guys, the ones who had oppressed my family." Since there were no other Afghan women in cabinet positions in G7 countries, Monsef became the point person for so many fleeing the country, and navigated ways she could help in the trying time.

By the end of that year, Monsef hung up her political hat, and turned to independent consulting, focusing on offering support to women in leadership positions around the world, and advocating for the rights of women and girls in marginalized communities.

After speaking for an hour straight, Monsef concluded her talk by noting that through it all, she always came back to her 'why'. Her North Star. It was always for the people, the community, for the girls who have voices, and especially for those who do not.

Finding one topic to explore during a presentation on someone who has done so much isn't easy. It was difficult. But the energy that was felt in that room full of people who suddenly felt seen, heard, and inspired; that's the North Star of the story.

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A sunny morning on Pelaw Lake. by Laura Smith

Editorial

Newsies

HISTORY HAS been on my mind this week.

Particularly newspaper history. How much has changed in the *Echo's* 140 years of existence.

Printing the paper was a little different back then…

I've been reminded of this thanks to a chat with a dedicated preserver of local history for the past 39 years, Haliburton Highlands Museum curator Steve Hill.

I was there to learn a bit more about his long career as curator.

As soon as I arrived, though, he immediately took me to one of his favourite displays.

"THE ECHO" read the sign above it in big letters.

vivian collings

A big, old printing press sat underneath, black from decades of ink and rust.

"This press is in my top three favourite artifacts here," he said.

He unlocked it and demonstrated how it worked; the wheel gliding effortlessly and joints moving without a hitch on the century-old piece of metal and wood.

"You had to be quick with it," he said as he tossed a piece of paper in before the next printing. "Some of the old printers called this an alligator. They said getting your fingers pinched is your initiation to the printing trade," he chuckled.

In the 40s, the press was located in Minden during the big fire on Bobcaygeon Road.

It was saved from the scorching newspaper office, but all previous archives of the *Echo* were burned.

This was a serious loss.

Nearly all editions of the *Echo* from 1884 up until that point were gone forever.

Historical facts became hearsay instantly with no literature to back them.

The effects of this fire are still being felt today by those working on the newspaper digitization project.

There will be a huge gap in their records, which are soon to be the community's records.

Today's paper is constructed digitally. It's sent to press, a big printer in the city, with the click of a few buttons. It arrives the very next morning, ready to be distributed.

We don't have to set type. We don't have to operate big presses. We don't have to print the paper ourselves overnight.

But, in Hill's words, "We learn about history to appreciate those who toughed it out before us. We live off the fruits of their labour, and the least we can do is honour that by learning and teaching."

History's also important because it reminds us of what hasn't changed.

In 140 years, us "newsies" have all had essentially the same job: to tell the stories of the community.

I'm sure the editors back then brought their pencil and paper to interviews. They asked the who, what, when, and where, but most importantly, the why and how.

They'd piece together a story from that information based around a main idea.

I can greatly appreciate the hard work of past newspaper editors, printers, typesetters, because they did it all without the help of computers.

We're certainly lucky today with our technology.

Fires can't destroy our history now, and putting a paper out each week is significantly less physical work than the old days, and I won't be taking that for granted.

Thanks to all who came before for their tireless work, all in the name of news.

It makes me proud to be a newsie.

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Fireside stories

Maybelle's

Let it snow, don't tcha know

DEAR READERS,

Well, Mama Nature's recent snowfall sure has us all busy here in Lake WhaddayathinkImean, don'tcha know. Why, my beautiful Japanese Dappled Willow out back of my cottage has snowballs clustered in its pruned twig-like branches that's got it looking like an art installation. And those big sky-licking evergreens with their big mounds of fallen sugar look like big white bear claws. A virtual Hallmark greeting card right here in my own backyard. And then, there's the driveway.

Well, with the good, unfortunately, oftentimes comes the eeeeeegaaaaad! Why, depending on the TYPE of snow, 'ol Maybelle can get these bones to shovelling. But, come the heavier layers, why thank goodness for good friends like Beanpole Starkman who is always at the ready with his goodwill and good snowblower, don'tcha know.

The snow-laden ground sure has taken a bite out of these 'ol bones hiking and just walking carefree along Lake W. Gotta be careful of hidden ice, which is why I wear grippers on the bottoms of my boots, don'tcha know. The kind of cleats I can take off easily before shopping at Mort and Gloria Fripferder's Lake W Food Mart, don'tcha know.

And did I mention the icicles hanging off my windows? Why, I remember years ago when Beanpole came by to chop a big one down. Yes, CHOP. The icicle was THAT big! It looked like the beanstalk 'ol Jack climbed to steal the golden egg, except it was solid ice, close to a foot wide, attached to the roof that went all the way down to the ground outside of my kitchen window.

The plan was for Beanpole to wait for Twindle Mumbly to come by and so they could work together for safety reasons, don'tcha know. But, Beanpole was just itching to take an axe to that thing before Twindle arrived, and the next thing I know, I'm in the kitchen and hear screaming coming from out back like ten yowling cats in heat.

I throw the kitchen door open and race outside to find Beanpole, flat on his back, in three feet of snow with the icicle-tree laying on top of him, right down the full length of his body. All you could see of Beanpole was the top of his head and his big clunky snow boots. Why that thing was so heavy, (how heavy was it?) that it took three of us to lift it enough for him to roll out from under it. It must have weighed a ton. Thank goodness, Twindle had arrived with his twin brother, Dwindle, to help us free 'ol Beanpole from his icy predicament. Boy oh boy, was Beanpole ever lucky. That three feet of snow that he fell backward into, cushioned his whole body from breaking, don'tcha know.

Now, why am I bringing this up now? Because I hope this cautionary tale might help prevent a mishap in your winter days ahead. In the meantime, enjoy the beauty. It surely is magnificent, don'tcha know!

P.S. I hinted several weeks ago about something special coming up in February that I think you just might get a giggle out of. So, you might want to jot this down on your calendar. Why, if 'ol Maybelle isn't going to be on stage with all my good friends from Lake WhaddayathinkImean on Friday, February 16 at the Northern Lights Pavilion. That's right. I'll be writing a brand spanking new Valentine's Day column right there on the stage as all my good friends come to life right before your eyes – Vilma Yucch, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom, Beanpole Starkman, Sybil Beaucannon Hughes, Twindle Mumbly and even his twin brother, Dwindle, better known as Stix Tooya, drummer of the popular rock group, Gastritis, don'tcha know. Why we'll be helping to fundraise for the new youth theatre company, Ctrl-ALT-Del headed up by Tim Nicholson at: A Valentine's Cabaret. The young thespians will be performing eight short love-themed (for Valentine's Day) theatre pieces and then 'ol Maybelle will top it off with ten minutes of fun-filled silliness. Sure would love to see you there and it's for a great cause, don'tcha know. It's all happening on Friday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets: tickets.ctrlartdel.ca.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories is now available at www.amazon.com.

points of view

Loon Tales

steve galea

Can I have your blessings?

FOR THOSE who aren't up to speed on Papal elections, permit me to explain how they work.

When the Vatican is electing a new Pope, they send up a smoke signal through the chimney of the Sistine Chapel after every vote. If the smoke is black, they have not reached a consensus. If the smoke is white, the Catholic Church has elected a new Pope.

Thst's why, this weekend it occurred to me that, if a tourist from Vatican City were visiting Haliburton, they might be overwhelmed by the number of Popes we appear to be electing. And they might be also confused as to whether or not we elected one. After all, some houses put out black smoke; some put out white smoke.

This is something I really notice, partially because I was raised Catholic, but mostly because we just changed over from an oil furnace that used to put out black smoke to a gas furnace that puts out white smoke.

Now I know this seems like nonsense, but I still think that it is not a reason for Jenn to veto my idea about installing a balcony over our front lawn and buying myself a Pope outfit.

Her exact words were, "Why would you want to do that?"

I know the answer is obvious to you and me, but I had to explain it anyways.

"That way, every time our furnace starts up in winter, I can don the outfit and step out on the balcony to wave to the faithful few who have assembled on our lawn," I said. "It would reassure them that everything is going to be OK."

"No one ever assembles on our lawn," she snapped.

"Not now," I replied. "But they might if I started doing this regularly. Heck, I bet a lot of people would want to see this at least once."

Admittedly, it would be an interesting way to pass the winter. But there's more to it than that. My idea is actually good for us all.

I'm not sure if the County's tourism people are reading this but, you know, let me just put this out there. With the ever-changing, less predictable winters we have recently experienced, wouldn't it be great to have another egg to put in our winter tourism basket? Of course, the answer is yes.

So, close your eyes and visualize this: Haliburton: Pope impersonator capital of Canada!

Not bad huh?

Am I trying to find a niche role in the tourism market that I could ride out into my golden years? Maybe.

Would I go so far as to paint the ceiling of our living room to look like a second-rate version of the Sistine Chapel? Absolutely.

I'd also get a car with a sunroof so I could wave and bless people every time Jenn and I drive to the grocery store. I'm that committed.

I know it's probably easy to slough this off. But before you do, I'd like you to consider what Elvis impersonators did for Las Vegas.

Doesn't sound so silly now, does it?

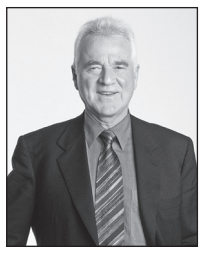
I could start painting the ceiling in our living room, the minute you give me the go ahead. The balcony might take as long as three years depending on how busy our local contractors are.

Think it over. Hopefully, after you decide, I'll see some white smoke.

In the meantime, bless you all.

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

Government bureaucracy is out of control – and Canadians are paying the price



frank stronach

IF YOU asked most Canadians if this country needs more bureaucrats, they'd probably say no.

Unfortunately, Canada's bureaucracy continues to mushroom in size, regulating and micro-managing more and more aspects related to how we live and work.

New figures published last week by the Public Service Commission of Canada show that the federal public service now stands at about 275,000 employees – an astounding 40 percent increase from a decade ago – and that doesn't include another 85,000 civil servants working in affiliated government agencies.

If you then add in all of the civil servants working for provincial, regional and municipal governments across Canada, the total number of government employees in this country is around four million.

Why is that a problem?

It's a problem for two reasons. The first is that more bureaucrats equals more government spending – and that in turn leads to bigger deficits and more taxes.

But the other problem, which is perhaps even worse, is that more bureaucrats also means more regulations, permits and licenses. All of this red tape is strangling economic growth and progress, particularly for small business, and is one of the major reasons why our living standards are falling.

When I was CEO of Magna International Inc., I could always tell if one of our factories was struggling financially by the number of white collar workers in the offices above the factory floor. If you've got way too much administration up top, it doesn't matter how hard the employees on the factory floor work, your business simply won't be profitable. The same principle holds true for countries.

The fact is, we can't continue hiring more and more government workers year after year.

Government spending as a percentage of national GDP, or Gross Domestic Product, is closing in on 50 per cent. Back in the 1950s, when Canada's economy was booming, government spending as a percentage of GDP was just under 20 per cent. We had less government, and a higher standard of living.

The government approach to small business in Canada back in the 1950s and 60s was also much more conducive to creating jobs and growth. Government would do whatever it could to get businesses up and running. Today, however, it seems that governments put more of their time and energy into hampering and blocking business.

Canadians are forking over more and more of their paycheques to finance a sprawling government bureaucracy that increasingly does not enhance the quality of our lives. On the contrary, it makes our daily lives more complicated and costly, and it makes operating a small business more difficult.

Principles

So, what's the answer?

We need to return to some bedrock economic principles that will get our country back on a solid economic footing – principles like not spending more than we take in, eliminating our debt, and unleashing small business, the engine of our economy.

The best way to do that is through the adoption of a national economic charter of rights and responsibilities.

Think about this: there are approximately one million small businesses in Canada. If we dramatically reduced the mountain of regulations and red tape holding them back, these businesses would be free to expand and grow.

And if every small business in Canada hired just one single additional employee, we could create a million new jobs overnight. We would ignite economic growth on a scale this country hasn't seen in many decades.

Size of Federal Civil Service Source: www.canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/services/publications/annual-reports/annual-report-2022-2023.html

Size of Spending on Civil Servant Salaries: publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2023/dpb-pbo/YN5-266-2023-eng.pdf

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com

GOT A NEWS TIP?

Let us know about it!

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pic *of the* past

To raise the level of the lakes, loggers built timer slides, glance dams, cleared channels and held back water in order to have the water needed to move their logs downstream to mills in the spring. This dam was on the outlet of Mud Lake, now called Outlet Bay of Drag Lake. Present day water levels, maintained by the Trent-Severn Waterway, are a legacy of the logging days of Haliburton County. Photo courtest of Haliburton: A History in Pictures, by the Haliburton Highlands Museum

Cultivating a greener future

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

While it may feel like winter has only just arrived, Haliburton's Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning (FEEL) is already preparing for spring. From now until May 13, FEEL is hosting a high-quality native and eco-friendly plant sale for Haliburton County landowners and community organizers.

FEEL is a not-for-profit charity organization that organizes the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Children's Water Festival (HMKCWF) and other programs that promote hands-on learning experiences for youth across the county. In the past, they have partnered with the Haliburton County Public Library, municipality and Lake's Association, to promote ecological and environmental stewardship for youth.

FEEL's annual plant sale is a fundraiser that will directly support the HMKCWF, which teaches and motivates thousands of school-age children each year to be water-wise stewards in their classrooms, homes and communities.

The plant sale offers a selection of native trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. FEEL chair, Stephanie Field said that in addition to supporting youth environmental education, the sale also promotes ecological preservation and regeneration by offering native plant species.

A wide range of benefits can be achieved for Haliburton's ecosystems by increasing and restoring native plants, Field says.

Native floras provide critical habitat for local wildlife, help to reduce erosion and improve air and water quality. "Plants that are native to Haliburton, like Black Eyed Susans, form deep root systems that will help reduce run-off and prevent the development of blue-green algae," Field said.

Furthermore, native plants are better adapted to local soil and climate conditions, meaning they require less maintenance and water. "Most of the plants that we are selling are bare root, so they may need a little extra support at the start," Field said, "but after the first year, the native plants are self-sufficient."

Plants are sourced primarily by Rebecca Krawczyk's Botanicals Nursery at Big Hawk Lake, along with other regional providers. This ensures they are suitable for Haliburton growth, based on plant hardiness zones.

FEEL offers solutions that help take the guesswork out of revitalizing your green spaces. Their team has curated "themed bundles," which are collections of plants that have similar site needs and ecological functions, including shoreline, pollinator, forest and upland bundles. This feature will help you select the most appropriate plants for your land and optimize ecological benefits.

Additionally, FEEL has teamed up with the Restoration Ecology Team at Abbey Gardens and Cara Steele to offer planting and cultivation services. The crew will assist you with mulching and planting your native plants and help you determine the ideal locations for the plants you have purchased.

Field noted that each plant purchased will also come with an instruction package to assist you with proper plant care and their needs.

In the process of beautifying your property, starting a garden, shading a patio or creating wildlife habitat, choosing the right plants can be a challenge. But with the help of FEEL, you can feel good about your decision.

The sale ends on May 13, and plants will be ready for pickup at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Recycle Right
Print recycling posters for home and work at dysartetal.ca/recycle
Recycling for Containers
Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food
Food & Beverage Cartons
Plastic bottles, tubs, containers (caps can be left on)
Plastic plant pots and trays (no soil)
Glass bottles and jars
Metal beverage cans, metal food cans
Aluminum foil and trays
Cardboard canisters
Styrofoam (food and drink only)
Plastic shopping bags (clean, dry, empty)
Recycling for Papers
Boxboard
Newspapers
Magazines & Catalogues
Paper (office, mixed, writing)
Envelopes (includes ones with windows)
Corrugated cardboard (flatten)
Paper beverage cups (plastic lids go in Recycling for Containers)
Brown paper bags
Paper egg cartons, paper take-out trays
Toilet paper rolls, Paper towel rolls
Garbage
Must be placed in clear garbage bags
Plastic Ziploc bags, other plastic film & bags
Plastic food pouches
Cookie, chip, bar, snack bags and wrappers
Plastic straws, plastic cutlery
Disposable gloves, masks, sanitizing wipes
Food waste (consider composting)
Broken ceramics
Paper towel, facial tissues
Styrofoam block and peanuts
Diapers (consider reusable)
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Fats, cooking oil, grease (never pour down sink)
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Address to a Haggis

Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums pipe major Andrew Mansfield leads in the haggis during Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Haliburton Legion. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

July 2023 Year in Review

Duchene joins Dallas Stars

Haliburton raised NHL player Matt Duchene opted to join the Dallas Stars for one year, and signed a $3 million dollar contract after being bought out by his previous team, the Nashville Predators.

CT scanner and mammography unit approved for HHHS

Haliburton Highlands Health Services received long-awaited news that diagnostic imaging can be brought to the Haliburton Hospital to serve local patients.

Approval was granted for the purchase and operation of a CT scanner and CT mammography unit to be installed in the spring of 2024 at a cost of approximately $3.5 million.

The announcement was made on Friday, July 7 in the space where both pieces of equipment will be installed at HHHS in Haliburton.

Laurie Scott and Veronica Nelson smile while sharing the news of a CT scanner and mammography unit that will be brought to the Haliburton hospital. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

Group discovers unique Haliburton County apples

Apples grown in Haliburton County may be unique right down to their DNA.

And there's a group that had been exploring that possibility as part of the Apple Tree Identification Project (ATIP).

Highlands East township council heard when it met July 11 that 110 apple tree locations in more than 10 old orchards have been identified in the county. An orchard is of at least four trees. Hundreds of old apple trees have been discovered in Highlands East.

Cake was served at the Canada Day celebrations held at the Gooderham Community Centre on July 1. /TIM YANO

Highway 118 construction underway

Major delays between Haliburton and Carnarvon last summer caused headaches for some travelers, but construction work was on track for a freshly resurfaced, stable road in July.

Features include a new east-bound turn lane and extended west-bound turn lane at the Highway 118 and Kennisis Lake Road intersection.

"New concrete curb and gutter together with a storm sewer system, and new illumination will also be installed," said Dakota Brasier of the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO).

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. turns 100

The staple Haliburton business turned a century old last spring, thriving through the Roaring Twenties, surviving recessions, making it through war time, building new facilities, and ultimately seeing steady success, all thanks to generations of close-knit families that owned and worked at the company.

"It wasn't just a job, it was its own community. It was a family. Curry Chevrolet was everything to us, and it was a huge part of our everyday, ordinary life," said Wendy Iles, wife of the late Mike Iles, former service manager and shareholder of Curry Chevrolet.

Police interrupt early-morning would-be thief at car lot

Some early morning proactive policing interrupted a would-be thief in mid-act on Highway 118 in Haliburton.

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands OPP Detachment interrupted the theft of tires and rims from a motor vehicle at about 3 a.m. on July 14.

Officers on general patrol came upon a theft in progress. The OPP has a policy of not identifying the victims of crime, by a phone call to the Haliburton Chrysler dealership confirmed the attempted theft happened on the lot.

Const. Michael Melnychuk said only that it happened at a business.

"We patrol the area during the day and we come across things," Const. Michael Melnychuk said of the brazen attempt. "Our officers were just checking."

The suspect fled west on foot.

A search by police, the Emergency Response Team, and the canine unit came up empty.

Patrick Monaghan passes away

The Canoe FM Buckslide Blues Cruise host's grin and signature thumbs up, with a firecracker personality to go with them, were mourned by the local community as well as the blues lovers across the country.

The Haliburton Grassroots Athletics Soccer league played on Thursday, July 20 in the Haliburton High School field. Kids from all over the county participated on a weekly basis. /ADAM FRISK

"He just connected with everybody he came in touch with. He's one of those guys that as soon as you get talking to him, you consider him a friend, and he would do anything for anybody," said friend of Monaghan's and fellow member of the Buckslide Blues Society, Rusty Rustenberg.

Monaghan passed away on Tuesday, July 25 after a long battle with cancer. Exactly a week before, he was in the studio at Canoe FM, broadcasting his profound love of the blues for the last time, his 371st show.

"When he was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, he told us time and time again this radio station kept him going. It gave him a purpose and drive. Some days you could tell he was so tired, and he still did it all. We've lost such an amazing person," said Canoe FM station manager Roxanne Casey.

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August 2023 Year in Review

Head Lake Park playground breaks ground

Site preparation for the Head Lake Park playground began immediately following the Arts and Crafts Festival in July. Fencing was installed on July 26 with excavation beginning the following day. The playground installers are arrived and began construction on Monday, August 7.

Kilcoo director accused of assault

The prestigious camp's former director, David Latimer, was accused of sexual misconduct that arose in the 1990s and early 2000s. Two cases were put forward, with the plaintiffs identified as J. Doe # 1 and J. Doe # 2.

At this time, none of the claims had been tested in court.

Remains of county's oldest known turtle found

The Turtle Guardians announced a tragic end to Amazing Grace's story.

Remains of a large snapping turtle with distinguishing features were found at the Koshlong Lake dam, close to 15 kilometres away from her traditional grounds.

"We are certain that these are of our beloved friend, as the ocular bones are a match for the unusual form of her eyes, and her suture lines (connections between bone plates) are a match to Grace's unique carapace," said Turtle Guardians founder Leora Berman in a statement.

Berman said because of the nature of her remains and where they were found, human intervention likely caused the death of the 125+ year old turtle.

Ethel Curry Gallery announces closure

The era of the Ethel Curry Gallery would come to an end on Oct. 20, despite the heartache of owner Wayne Hooks, fellow employees, and community members.

"The writing was on the wall last year, and it was chiseled into the wall by March of this year," Hooks said in August. "We don't want to close it, but it's just at an unsustainable point."

Hooks said the gallery hadn't been making enough income to stay open. As a privately owned, privately funded gallery, the direct cause is "not selling enough paintings on the walls."

"I think art is really important to community, and I think it's really sad and awful that this gallery isn't going to be here anymore. To have something that has been part of the community for 28 years, to have people coming in and say, 'see you next summer,' and then we have to tell them they won't, it's heartbreaking, and it's a signal of something way bigger happening," said Poet Ever, employee of the gallery.

Minden Pride Week kicks off

The eigth annual Minden Pride Week kicked off Monday, Aug. 27 with the flag raising at the Minden Municipal Parking Lot. Events ran throughout the week to help promote diversity and inclusivity throughout the county.

Ethel Curry Gallery owner Wayne Hooks, employee Poet Ever, and gallery pup Sprocket pose for a photo in their favourite room in the gallery. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Leslie English from the Abbey Gardens Pony Powered Learning Experience (APPLE) leads a session on July 28 around the Abbey Gardens property. /TIM YANO

Evan Backus, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student who recently won silver at OFSAA in the 300m hurdles event, fourth from left, was congratulated by former track and field OFSAA Red Hawk athletes Kate Campbell, second from left, and Matt Duchene, second from right, who also placed in their respective events when they attended HHSS. The athletes are pictured with their coaches Paul Morissette, Karen Gervais, and Walter Tose on the HHSS Gary Brohman field on Friday, Aug. 4. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

County council paves the way for residential development

A residential development in Dysart will include six affordable housing units and was announced in August.

Land at the corner of Maple Avenue and Victoria Street has been redesignated from commercial to an urban residential area to allow for three six-unit apartment complexes comprised of one-, two-, and three-bedroom units.

Two of the units in each building will be designated as affordable housing. The others will be offered at market value by the proponent, Hot Pond Enterprises Corporation.

Dysart's municipal council previously approved the development and the upper tier decision-makers gave the greenlight the various planning amendments to allow the project to proceed.

Aliyah Cox enjoys some cotton candy at the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair on Aug.11.

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September 2023 Year in Review

20 years of Canoe FM

Twenty years ago, the song *Impossible Dreams* was the very first song that soared through the airwaves of Haliburton County, a fitting tribute to what felt to many like their own impossible dream: a community radio station here in Haliburton County. With their 20th Anniversary on Sept. 26, 2023, Canoe FM looks back at how far they have come and how much the community has grown in those twenty years.

County's history to be preserved through digitization

Soon, there will be a way for everyone to access existing written history of Haliburton County. The first step began in the fall.

The Haliburton County Newspaper Digitization Project committee formed to take on digitizing boxes and boxes of newspaper publications as far back as 1860.

"It's ideal for people doing genealogy, it's ideal for people doing personal history searches or if someone's researching a certain project or organization," said Ted Brandon, project coordinator. "And it's just so important to preserve. All these papers live in boxes. If there were ever a fire, all that history would be gone."

1 Million March 4 Children protest takes place

On Sept. 20, a protest was scheduled for Head Lake Park titled the '1 Million March 4 Children'.

The idea behind the march was to fight against the current public school curriculum, which teaches diversity, inclusion, and 2SLGBTQIA+ areas of interest. According to the nation-wide website, participants were adamant about "advocating for the elimination of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum, pronouns, gender ideology and mixed bathrooms in schools."

While counter protests sprouted up across the country, Haliburton County jumped onboard. In less than 48 hours, the movement gained momentum across various online platforms, resulting in well over 100 attending the day of; more than the number of attendees at the originally scheduled protest.

The Movie Man comes home to Kinmount's Highlands Cinemas

The highly anticipated documentary *The Movie Man* made its way home to Kinmount's Highland Cinema with two private screenings of the film in September.

Hosted in what arguably is the most unusual movie theatre in North America, perhaps the world, *The Movie Man* premiered in front of two sold out shows, telling the story of Keith Stata, the man behind the movies.

Filmmaker Matt Finlin spent nearly five years working on the project, telling the story of how Stata created the wacky movie theatre and his effort to keep it alive.

The Head Lake Park playground fundraising committee beams while dozens of children play during the grand opening. The committee took charge of choosing playground designs and fundraising to build a new park for Haliburton from the ground up. From left, Alyson Bailey, Brandon Nimigon, Nicole Baumgartner-Spooner, Andrea Mueller, Stephanie Ward, and Jessica Madamba smile for a photo. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

The Haliburton County Folk Society presented the Julian Taylor Band on Sept. 9 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Taylor recently won Solo Artist of the Year at the 16th Canadian Folk Music Awards. /TIM YANO

A biker smiles while passing the finish line during the fifth annual Hurtin in Haliburton Gravel Relay Race held at Haliburton Forest on Friday, Sept. 15 and Saturday, Sept. 16. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

Tensions were high in Haliburton as 1 Million March 4 Children protestors walked along Head Lake toward the public schools with counter-protestors lining both sides of the walkway on Wednesday, Sept. 20. /VIVIAN COLLINGS

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Greta Lariviere ..... my son Trevor
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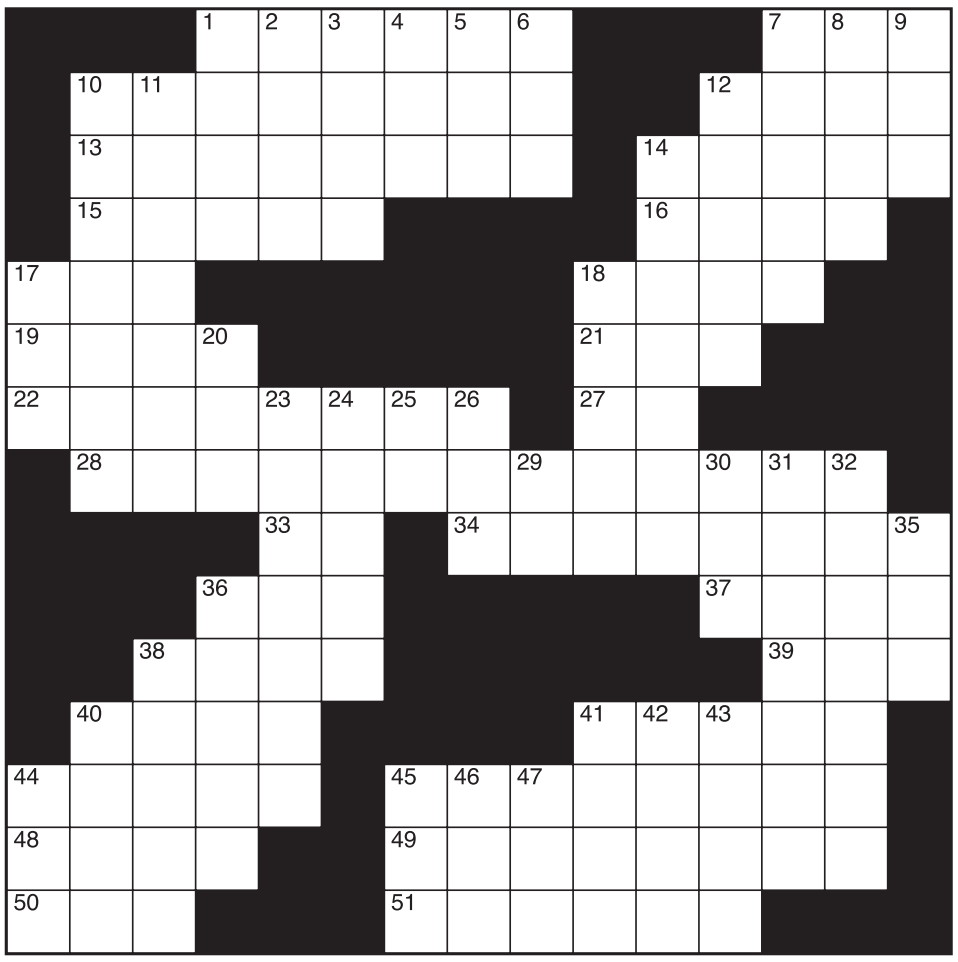

CLUES ACROSS
1. Winged nut
7. __ Humbug!
10. One who sets apart
12. Circle above a saint's head
13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
14. Expressed pleasure
15. Feminine given name
16. Company of badgers
17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
18. Witty sayings
19. Leader
21. Autonomic nervous system
22. Premolar
27. Atomic #28
28. Holiday decorative item
33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Rusk or cracker
36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
38. Eat
39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
40. Ceases to exist
41. Male Arabic name
44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
45. Places where bees are kept
48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
49. Church office
50. Single lens reflex
51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN
1. Classify
2. Dismounted
3. Produced
4. Consumed
5. Director Howard
6. The products of human creativity
7. Thai monetary units
8. Away from wind
9. Builder's trough
10. Relating to Islam
11. It can sometimes ache
12. Small quantities (Scot.)
14. Poisonous plant
17. Laugh at
18. Vogul
20. C. European river
23. Type of cat
24. Exclamation of disgust
25. Stephen King novel
26. Without armies
29. Expression of sympathy
30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
31. Previously
32. Illegal drug
35. Kiloelectronvolt
36. Large, flightless birds
38. For smoking
40. Binary
41. Competition
42. Mark resembling an arrow
43. Containers
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. Commercials
46. I.M.__, architect
47. 007's creator

Answers on page 14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 15, 2024

The public is invited to a Public Information Centre (PIC) on the Haliburton Floodplain Mapping Project which is a Joint Initiative by the County of Haliburton, Ganaraska Conservation and Kawartha Conservation. The project is being funded in part by Natural Resources Canada's Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program (FHIMP).

Aiming to strengthen community resilience and safety, the County of Haliburton, in collaboration with the two conservation authorities, has initiated a vital study focused on preparing floodplain mapping for the Gull River and Burnt River systems. This initiative primarily seeks to enhance our understanding of flood risks within the County and to make our communities more resilient to flood risks.

Floodplain mapping plays a crucial role in guiding decisions related to safeguarding people and properties from natural hazards.

We cordially invite residents and other interested community members to a Public Information Centre. Here, attendees will have the opportunity to examine the study area, learn about how flood hazards are mapped, and engage in discussions with members of the project team. The community's participation in this event is highly encouraged. Final deliverables for this project are anticipated to be available this March.

The PIC is scheduled for Monday, January 29th, 2024, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Minden Community Centre, located at 55 Parkside Street, Minden, ON, and will be held in Room 2.

For more information, please contact: Steve Stone, Director of Planning for the County of Haliburton, 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0, Phone: 705-286-1333 ext. 222

Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**
- **TIME:** **11:00 AM**
- **LOCATION:** **The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2023-032 HOUGHTON :

- **The following variances are requested to permit an oversized private cabin and an additional accessory structure on a lot located in the WR4L zone:**

a) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(iii) to permit the maximum gross floor area of a private cabin to be 53.5 square metres (576 square feet), as opposed to the permitted maximum gross floor area of 45 square metres (484 square feet).

b) A variance to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit 3 accessory building (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 square metres (108 square feet) in area) as opposed to the permitted maximum of 2 (plus 1 one storey building less than 10 square metres (108 square feet) in area).

- **Location**: Part Lot 26, Concession 8, Parts 1 and 2, Plan 19R6229 in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al. Roll No. 012-000-67000

2. D13-MV-2024-001 HOT POND ENTERPRISES CORPORATION :

- **The following variance is requested to permit a decreased rear lot line setback for a medium density dwelling on a lot located in the R3-15 zone:**

a) A variance to Section 5.4.15.15 to permit a medium density dwelling to have a minimum rear lot line setback of 3 metres (9.8 feet), as opposed to the required minimum of 5 metres (16.4 feet).

- **Location**: Part Lot 17, Concession 8, Part Lot 12, Lot 6, Block T, Plan 1, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al. Roll No. 012-000-34200

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Flannel festivities

Highlands Summer Festival hosted a fundraiser at the Legion on Friday, raising money for the upcoming summer festival. The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack for the evening while locals bid on slight and toonie auctions to help raise money for the upcoming festival. Betty Mills collects money for 50/50 tickets. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*

Adverse Conditions perform on Friday night.

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Notice
(Applicant – Rab)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Contau Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **February 13, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Firstly: Pt. Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 16, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 & 2 on Plan of Survey19R-10904, made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023.

Secondly: Pt. Shore Road allowance in front of Lots 16 & 17, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 3 on Plan of Survey 19R-10904, made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023. (Part 3 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

Thirdly: Pt. Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 17, Con 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 4, 5, 6 & 7 on Plan of Survey 19R-10904 , made by P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed June 22, 2023. (Parts 4 & 5 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

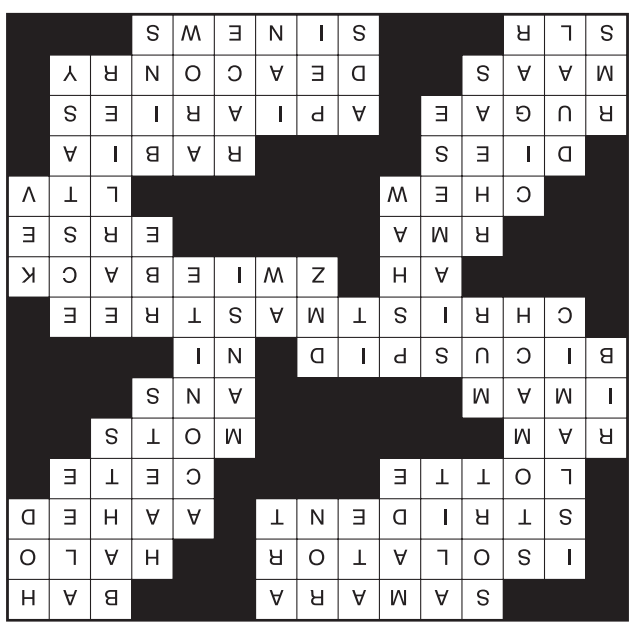
Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca/careers
Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

HR Manager hr@dysartetal.ca
Closing date is February 9th, 2024

** We thank all who apply; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.**

570 NOTICES

Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Andrew Woermke hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Andrew Woermke has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the on-line Common Project Search Registry (http://cps.canada.ca/) under the NPP File Number 2023-411319 a description of the following work, its site and plans:

- Work Type: Nautical sports utilities structure
- Work Subtype: Slalom Course. A series of buoys that create a designated course in, on, over, under, through or across Boshkung Lake at approximately 45°5'0.88"N 78°44'27.09"W in front of lot number Lot 10 to Lot 11, Triple Creek Lane, Township of Algonquin Highlands.

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or if you do not have access to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Navigation Protection Program – Transport Canada,
100 S Front St, 1st Floor, Sarnia ON, N7T 2M4

Transport Canada (TC) will not make your comments on a project available to the public on the online public registry. However, any information related to a work is considered as unclassified public record and could be accessible upon legal request. As such, the information and records provided should not contain confidential or sensitive information. If you want to provide confidential or sensitive information that you think should not be made public, please contact TC before submitting it.

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice. Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

Posted at Haliburton, Ontario this 23rd day of January, 2024
Andrew Woermke

540 COMING EVENTS

Call To Enter - The Tour De Forest summer art tour is looking for a variety of participants in both studio artists and guest artists. Please download application from haliburtontourdeforest.com. Deadline is February 16 2024. For more information contact Lori at **705-754-0444** or **tourdeforestjurying@gmail.com**

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In Loving Memory of

BAKER, R. Dennis

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Richard Dennis Baker on January 10, 2024 at Riverview Manor, Peterborough in his 80th year.

Dennis was the beloved husband of Shirley Jean (nee Roberts). Loving father of Andrew (Carly) and the late Karissa "Kari" Roman (Julio). He was the proud grandfather of Finnigan, Ruby, Gabriel and Elsa. Dear brother of Doris Faris and the late Bradley Baker (Fiona). Predeceased by his parents Dean and Hazel Baker. Lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Dennis was raised in Peterborough and spent much of his time helping his relatives on their farms in the Campbellford area. Time spent with family was greatly cherished by Dennis, and he took great pleasure in gathering with family for reunions, special occasions and everyday visits.

Dennis and Shirley Jean met, married, and raised their two children in Haliburton. Dennis was an amazing teacher for over 30 years, with the majority of his career spent with the Haliburton Board of Education. He took great happiness and pride in his students' successes, both in and outside the classroom.

He was an active member of his community as a scout leader for many years, a judge for Remembrance Day projects and a floor hockey coach. Dennis helped plan and organize special events for the Legion, a community organization that Dennis held dear. Bingo and Sunday morning breakfasts with old friends were some of Dennis' most cherished moments.

Friends are invited to join the family for a graveside service for Dennis that will be held in the spring at the Evergreen Cemetery in Haliburton. In lieu of flowers, and in honour of Dennis' memory, the family is requesting donations to the Alzheimer Society or charity of your choice. Memories and condolences can be shared at www.comstockkaye.com.

660 CARD OF THANKS

Thank you

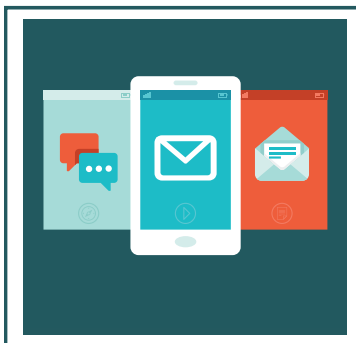
From the Family of Jean Margaret Tyler

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our families and friends for their kindness and the support shown for our Mother, Jean Margaret Tyler, who passed away on January 7, 2024. We thank the dedicated staff of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services including the Physicians who attended to her during her hospital stay, as well as the Nursing and Physiotherapy staff, the Personal Support Workers and Support Services staff, all who work tirelessly caring for their patients.

The ongoing support that our Mother received from the community enabled her to live independently in her home into her 98th year. We would like to recognize the excellent health care provided by the Family Physicians of the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team. Thank you to the staff of Home and Community Care Support Services, Community Programs and their caring PSWs, housekeepers and drivers. Thank you to the many local businesses who ensured that our Mother's home remained cared for and safe, including Jim Elstone and the Briggs family, Nathan Petrini and his staff, the Warburton family, Ed Burke and so many more, we thank you all. We are especially grateful to the late Peter Varty and his family, who kept a caring eye on our Mother for so many years.

Thank you to the staff at Haliburton Community Funeral Home and Reverend Harry Morgan for their professionalism and attention to detail making our Mother's visitation and service a special reunion of family and friends.

Sharon, Cathy and John



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

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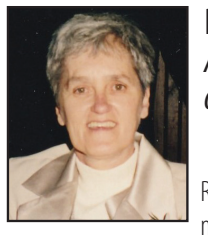
vivian@haliburtonpress.com



Parks, Rachelle Marie

At the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

Rachelle Parks, age 71 of Wilberforce, was the beloved wife of Robert Parks. Loving mother of Shane Parks and his wife Lisa of Port Hope. Loved grandmother of Anika and Nico. Sister of Francine, Madeline, Helene, Diane, Robert, Paul, and Bernie. Fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, and friends. At Rachelle's request, there will be no visitation. Cremation has taken place.

A Celebration of Rachelle's Life will take place in the spring. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

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Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Lung cancer rates higher than average

Health unit reveals lung cancer rates in Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge exceed Ontario average

Valerie MacDonald
Special to the *Echo*

There is more lung cancer in the tri-county health unit area including Haliburton than the provincial average, Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit board members were told at Thursday's monthly meeting in Port Hope.

The incidence of this type of cancer seems to correlate with the higher smoking rates in the local health unit's survey, according to data provided by health unit epidemiologist Jennifer Skinner.

The same survey also found that oral cancer in area females was less than the provincial rate and higher for males in the local health unit area. This data was taken from a smaller sample and was marked to indicate it was not as firm as other findings.

"Are those trends continuing today?" newly elected board

see POPULATION page 27

Hawks soar above Falcons

Left, Fenelon Falls Secondary School's player Gavin Taylor watches as Red Hawks guard Kieran Poropat soars to the basket during a home game against the Falcons on Thursday, Jan. 20. Haliburton came from behind to win 41-36. Read the story on page 20. **Darren Lum** Echo staff

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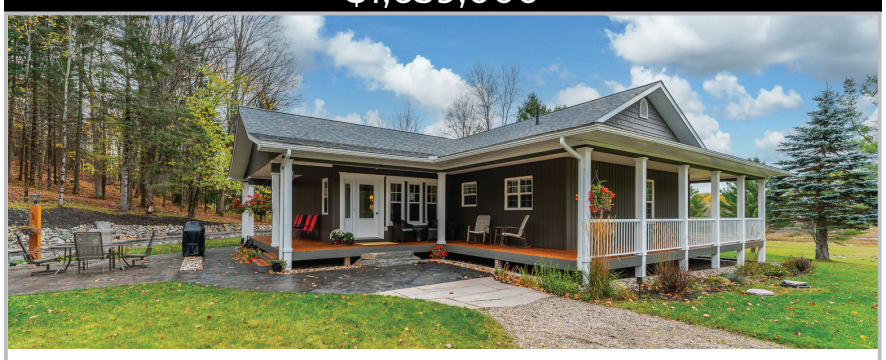

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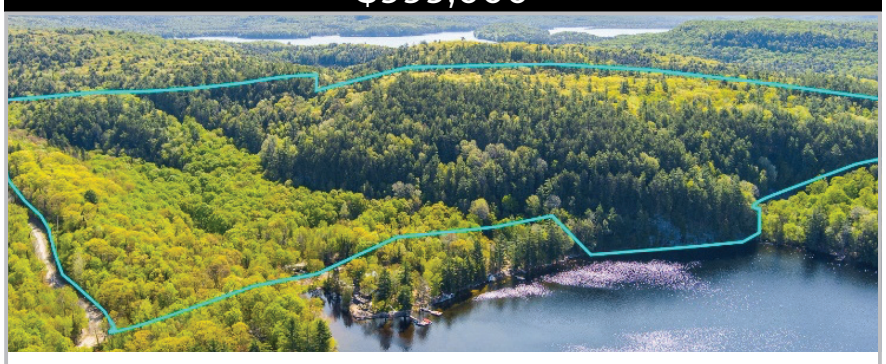

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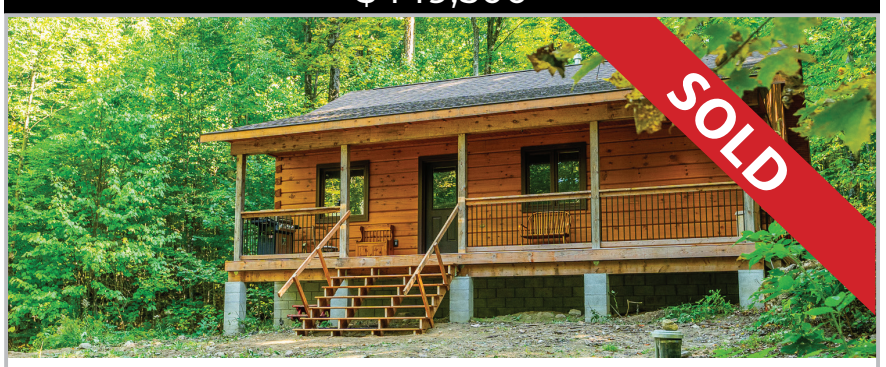

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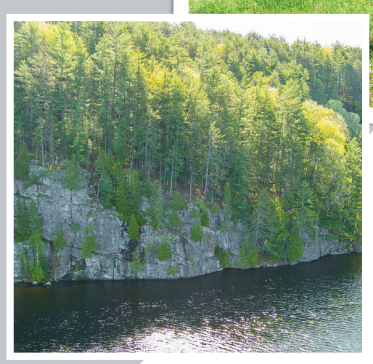

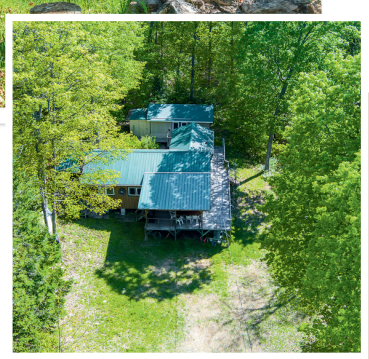

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